

NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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Contact: Judge Randin Roland
County Court – Sidney- 308-254-4147

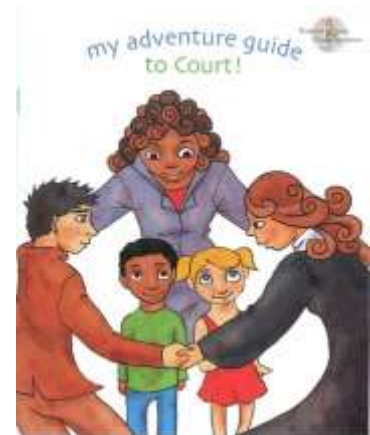
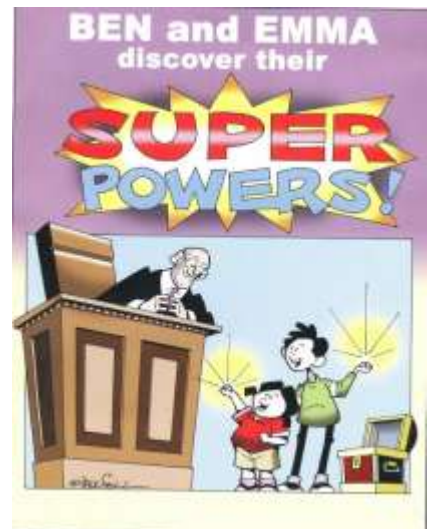
Nebraska Children Assisted in Adjusting to Court Setting

When children attend court hearings, they can be confused or anxious about what is happening. To provide a measure of comfort, Nebraska judges are giving children booklets to help explain the court process.

“Every day children come to our courthouses. To the extent that we can, Nebraska trial court judges do our best to make children comfortable and to explain the court process in language that grade-schoolers understand. These booklets will help bridge the gap between our adult process and the children who find themselves involved in the court system,” said Randin Roland, County Court Judge of the 12th Judicial District.

A comic book illustrated by Nebraska award-winning artist Paul Fell titled “Ben and Emma discover their Super Powers” is intended for children up to age 12. The message of the story is that each child has a voice in the court system and that their voice gives them their own ‘super power.’ Children are encouraged to talk to their lawyer and with the judge about their needs and concerns.

“My Adventure Guide to Court” is a coloring book designed for children up to age 8. The drawings, created by UNL students, leave room for children to express their emotions and record contact information. Children needing assistance with reading



will be helped by their lawyer or caseworker. Each booklet is distributed with a set of crayons.

The coloring book and comic book were developed by the Nebraska Supreme Court's Court Improvement Project and Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative. The Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative consists of multidisciplinary teams dedicated to improving the outcomes of children in the Nebraska child welfare system. The organization has, for the past several years, been a major part of the Supreme Court's efforts to improve court processing in abuse and neglect cases.

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Janice K. Walker, State Court Administrator

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